

# Longitudinal Clinical Placements Help Nursing Students Prepare for Real-World Care

By Kenneth Oja, PhD, RN

As healthcare continues to grow more complex, many newly graduated nurses feel unprepared for the demands of patient care. Longitudinal clinical placements may offer a more effective alternative to traditional nursing rotations.

## The Need for a Longitudinal Approach

Traditional clinical rotations, while valuable, do not always give students enough time in one place to build real confidence. Moving between different healthcare systems can prevent students from developing deep connections with staff, patients, and the overall environment.

Longitudinal clinical placements allow nursing students to gain continuous experience in the same healthcare organization over an extended period. This consistency helps foster stronger relationships with staff and patients, giving students a more com-

prehensive understanding of patient care and helping them develop critical thinking and clinical judgment skills in a stable setting.

## How Longitudinal Placements Build Confidence

Students who participated in longitudinal clinical placements reported feeling more confident in managing patients, handling emergencies, and performing essential clinical tasks. They also felt more comfortable managing multiple patients at once. Staying in the same environment allowed them to learn more deeply and build the skills necessary for real-world nursing.

## Consistent Exposure, Consistent Growth

One of the key advantages of longitudinal clinical placements is the continuity they offer. Instead of moving from one placement

to another, students stay in the same setting long enough to gain a strong grasp of the day-to-day demands of nursing. Working consistently with the same staff and patients provides a more immersive learning experience and smoother transitions from student to practicing nurse.

## Looking Ahead

Continuous exposure in a single healthcare setting through longitudinal clinical placements may better prepare nursing students for the challenges they will face in their careers. Collaboration between nursing schools and clinical partners will be essential to ensuring students are ready to meet the needs of today's complex healthcare environment.

These findings were recently published in *Nursing Outlook*. The full article can be found at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38905739/>. ■

# CA 20 West Metro

By Norma Tubman

DNA 20 held its Virtual 2024-25 Planning Meeting on August 21. Our Sept. Virtual Meeting focused on discussion of the Bylaws presented at the Membership Assembly Sept. 28. Six board members attended the CNA Conference and Membership Assembly and had the opportunity to provide input on the status of DNA 20 when new bylaws were voted on. Our October Virtual Meeting members, along with guests Mark Longshore, CNA Executive Director, and Kenneth Oja, Region 2 Director, discussed the pros and cons of Bylaws versus Rules of Organization

and a name change that reflects our mission. No decisions were made. Mark and Kenneth will be our guests at our Nov. Virtual Meeting as we finalize our organization model and name.

Our Oct. meeting speaker was Dr. Shireen Banerja, PharmD, DABAT, FAACT Managing Director, Rocky Mountain Poison Center. She gave an overview on the structure of the Center, staffing, number of calls per year, staff orientation, and some case studies.

We were honored to have Allison Windes recognized at the CNA Conference Reception as our Nurse of the Year. Allison has been an active member since 2008. Thanks to her work on the fundraising committee, we will be doing our annual scholarship fundraiser on March 30, 2025, at the Lakewood Cultural Center where tickets to Fiddler on the Roof have been purchased. CNA members wish-

ing to buy tickets to support this fundraiser can contact [allisonwindes@gmail.com](mailto:allisonwindes@gmail.com).

Thank you to Jean Schroeder for serving on the 2024 CNA Bylaws and Reference Proposal Committee. Jean also served on the CNA ANT panel presentation at the conference representing Nursing Education/Professional Development.

Annette Cannon continues to blend her nursing and coroner careers. Her podcast was published in two places: RNegade.com: "Being A Coroner," interviewed by Natalie Svenson RN, and Academy of Forensic Nursing - Bell Work Talks by Kathy Bell, Episode 55: "An Interview with Nurse Coroner Annette Cannon." She presented at Concordia University in Chicago on August 1st on "Introduction to Specialties of Forensic Nursing and Death Investigation," at the Academy of Forensics Nurses Regional Conference in Las